International commodity exchange

1959. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any proposals to establish an International Commodity Exchange in India;

(b) what are the commodities that would be traded through this Exchange once this becomes operational and whether the farmer producer lobbies would have direct involvement in the process; and

(c) what are the recommendations of the Kabra Commission on this aspect and whether such similar recommendations aimed at boosting India's agro-exports would be taken up for early implementation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) A proposal for the setting up of International Commodity Exchange in Pepper has been received by the Central Government.

(c) The Kabra Committee which was appointed by the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribtion in June, 1993 to review the operations of the forward markets and to assess the role of the Forward Markets Commission, has since submitted its report to the Government. The Government has not taken any decision on the recommendations of the Report as it involves consultation with various Government Departments/Organisations.

Rising Prices of Pulses

1960. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of pulses have increased repidly during the last few weeks in the country;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) No Sir, The Wholesale price of pulses have shown a declining trand during the last few weeks from 4.2.95 to 4.3.95. A statement indicating the percentage variations in the Wholesale Price Indices for pulses for the same period is given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below)

(c) Although the prices of pulses are under check in recent weeks, the Government is closely monitoring the price levels and availability position of pulses in the country. As a measure towards augmenting the availability of pulses, the import of the same has been brought under OGL at 10% customs duty. Pulses are also being made available through the retail outlets of Cooperative Stores, Kendriya Bhandar and State Civil Supplies Corporations etc., although this is not an item under the Public Distribution System.

Statement

Percentage Variation in Wholesale Price Indices of Pulses as on 4-3-1995

(Base 1981-82=100)

Group/Item	Weight	Over 1 week 4.3.95 25.2.95	Over 2 weeks 4.3.95 18.2.95	Over 4 weeks 4.3.95 4.2.95
Pulses	1.09	−1.9	−2.8	−5.0

1	2	3	4	5
Gram	0.41	−1.9	−3.3	−10.6
Arhar	0.27	−3.9	−4.9	−2.2
Moong	0.20	−1.1	−1.5	−1.4
Masur	0.05	−0.8	−1.8	−9.2
Urad	0.15	−0.2	−0.3	−1.2

Source: Office of Economic Adviser, Ministry of Industry.

उपभोक्ता-जागृति संबंधी गोष्ठी

1961. **श्री मूलचन्द मीणा:** क्या नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या उपभोक्ताओं में जागृति लाने हेतु भारतीय उपभोक्ता संगठन संघ ने हाल ही में एक गोष्ठी आयोजित की थी;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और इस गोष्ठी में क्या सुझाव दिये गये थे; और

(ग) सरकार की इस संबंध में क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

नागरिक पूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री बुटा सिंह): (क) से (ग) राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र दिल्ली द्वारा मुहैया की गई सूचना के अनुसार भारतीय उपभोक्ता संगठन संघ द्वारा उपभोक्ता जागृति के बारे में किसी संगोष्ठी के आयोजित किए जाने की बात अभी तक उनकी जानकारी में नही आई है।

Excluding affluent classes from benefits of PDS

1962. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been considering the question of excluding the affluent classes from the benefits of the Public Distribution System as per recommendations of the related advisory council; and

(b) if so, what were the precise recommendations of the advisory council; and what decision, if any, has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) Based on the decision taken in the 15th Meeting of Advisory Council on Public Distribution System (PDS) in March, 1993, the Government set up a Committee of Ministers to make recommendations for evolving a National Policy on PDS which should focus on the need to allocate larger and more meaningful quantities of foodgrains to the really needy and deserving sections of society. The recommendations contained in the report of the Committee of Ministers regarding exclusion is as under:

(i) In order to ensure that larger and more meaningful quantities of foodgrains reach the really needy and poorer sections it is inescapable that the relatively better off sections of the population are excluded from access to the PDS in respect of foodgrains.

(ii) Income criterion is the best criterion for exclusion of relatively better off categories from the PDS. However, considering the difficulties in translating this criterion into actual practice, an alternate workable modality could be to determine a number of categories of persons which can be considered as ostensibly better off and clearly non-poor for exclusion.

The report of the Committee of Ministers was considered in the 16th meeting of the Advisory Council on PDS and it was agreed that the matter required further discussion with the State Governments/UT Administrations through the forum of the National Development Council.